Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, as follows:

-- CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of pending United States Patent Application No. 09/619,380 filed July 19, 2000; which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. ~~USSN~~ 60/144,557, filed July 20, 1999, which are ~~is~~ incorporated herein by reference in their entireties ~~its entirety~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3, as follows:

Figure 3 is a sequence alignment showing sequence similarity between DSP-11 and other MAP-kinase phosphatases (SEQ ID NOS: 14-22).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, as follows:

Figure 5 presents a cDNA coding sequence for a murine DSP-11 variant (SEQ ID NO:12).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11, as follows:

Figure 6 presents the predicted amino acid sequence of a murine DSP-11 variant (SEQ ID NO:13).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 50, line 14, as follows:

Another EST identified in the database search described in this Example was W41278, the first nucleotide of which could be aligned with the nucleotide at position 139 in the DSP-11 coding strand sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, to show essential identity with the portion of SEQ ID NO:1 that encodes the C-terminal region of DSP-11, moving in the 3' direction from position 139. W41278 lacked the C→G substitution that was present in the AA023073 coding

strand at the nucleotide position corresponding to nt 438 of SEQ ID NO:1, as described above. From the sequence alignments of the ESTs, the complete coding sequence for the murine DSP-11 variant thus became apparent to yield the full length nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 5 (SEQ ID NO:12) which encodes the murine DSP-11 variant polypeptide sequence shown in Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:13), wherein the mismatches identified in AA023073 that generate premature stop codons have been corrected according to the W41278 sequence.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 50, line 26, as follows:

To molecularly clone this murine DSP-11 variant, a polynucleotide containing the full length coding sequence is amplified from a murine placenta cDNA library using standard PCR conditions (annealing temperature of 72°C, 35 cycles) and the following primers:

mDSP-11-5':
5'--ATG GGC GTG CAA CCC CCC AAC TTC TCC—3' (SEQ ID NO:10)

mDSP-11-3':
5'--TCA TTT TGT TCG CTG GTA GAA CTG GAA GAC GGC C—3' (SEQ ID NO:11)